1508/305

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS;

CONTAINING

A VARIETY OF FACTS

SELECTED FROM SEVERAL WRITERS,

AND INTENDED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION

OF

CHILDREN.

WITH COPPER PLATES.

PART I.

CONTAINING THE FIRST AND SECOND ORDER.

"We are apt to leave the Genius of Children, to phyſical, "and natural Knowledge, uncultivated; their Ignorance "makes them inſenſible; and to that Inſenſibility, may "be aſcribed their harſh Uſage, of ſeveral parts of this "noble Creation, which has the Stamp and Voice of a "Deity every where, and in every thing, to the ob- "ſerving.—It is a pity, therefore, that Books have not "been compoſed for Youth, by Naturaliſts, that they "might learn Things with Words."

WILLIAM PENN.

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M DCC LXXXVI.

PREFACE.

THE materials for this little NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS, FOR THE USE of CHILDREN, are taken from ſeveral publications, but principally from BUFFON. It is intended to comprize the ſix orders of birds, arranged according to the ſyſtem of LINNÆUS.

As the object propoſed, is to combine amuſement with inſtruction, thoſe parts which are merely deſcriptive of the plumage, or the colours of the birds, are introduced as little as appeared conſiſtent with the whole of the deſign; and a ſtyle has been attempted ſuitable to the capacity of a child, conſiſting of ſhort ſentences, and familiar and obvious expreſſions.

The generic characters do not, perhaps, come under this deſcription; they are for that reaſon printed with a different type, and will be eaſily diſtinguiſhed: yet a regard to ſyſtem, and the purpoſe of inſtruction,

tion, render them neceſſary. It ſhould alſo be remember'd, that theſe terms are the names of viſible objects, and therefore the more eaſily acquired by children: the caſe is widely different with thoſe words which are intended to expreſs abſtract ideas, becauſe there the ideas themſelves are not within the comprehenſion of a child. It may be further obſerved, that, in order to facilitate the acquirement of any ſcience, it is eſſential to learn the terms which are generally employed by thoſe who write upon it.

This little compilation was made for the young children of a particular family: it is much at the ſervice of others, who may approve the plan, and incline to adopt it.

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ERRATA IN PART I.

Page 14, line 19 from the top, for *Lark*, read *Larks*.

22, after *Order II.* add PICÆ.

31, line 15, dele *the Phillipine Iſlands*, and add *Malabar, on the weſtern coaſt of India.*

32, line 5, after *hopping*, read, *that is, it has three toes before and one behind.*

33, line 3, after *compreſſed*, dele *thick*, and read *thin but deep.*

33, line 7, dele *feet*, and read *toes.*

34, line 9, after *three*, read *toes.*

47, line 13, after *three*, read *toes.*

49, line 12, after *three*, read *toes.*

55, line 3, inſtead of *the beak is ſmooth*, read *the beak is weak.*

ORDER 1.

Genus 1 Vulture.

VULTURE.

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THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

ORDER I. Accipitres.

Genus 1. VULTUR.

The VULTURE.

The beak is ſtrait, except towards the end, where it is hooked, it is covered at the baſe with a thin ſkin.

There are no feathers on its head, or the upper part of its neck, but inſtead of feathers, a ſoft hairy down.

The tongue is bifid, that is, cloven, or divided at the point.

THERE are ſeveral kinds of Vultures; and they are found, ſome in the ſouthern parts of Europe, ſome in Aſia, ſome in Africa, and in the warmer parts of America.

They feed upon ſerpents, upon the eggs of crocodiles, and of alligators, and upon dead carcaſes, which they can ſmell a great way off.

In America there are many wild horſes and wild cows; the hunters kill them in order to get their ſkins, and they leave the dead bodies upon the ground: all this time the Vultures are flying after and watching them; and as ſoon as the hunters are gone, they come down in great numbers, and devour the bodies that are left. They are ſo greedy, and ſometimes eat ſo much, that they cannot fly from the place until they have brought up part of it again.

There are Vultures at the Cape of Good Hope, in Africa. When an ox or a cow is tired, and lies down in the field, the Vultures will ſometimes fly down upon it in great numbers, whilſt it ſleeps. They make a hole in its ſtomach, and eat out all its inſide; then they pick all the fleſh clean from its bones; ſo that if the ſkin were taken off there would be nothing left but a ſkeleton.

There are many Vultures in other parts of Africa, and at Grand Cairo, which is in Egypt, and by the river Nile. The Vultures, and the wild dogs together, eat all the dead bodies that they can find. They are of great uſe there; for

if they did not eat them, the ſmell would be very hurtful to the health of the people who live in thoſe hot countries.

In the river Nile there are numbers of crocodiles, who come out of the water to lay their eggs, which they bury in the ground. The Vultures ſit upon the trees and watch the Crocodiles, and as ſoon as they are gone into the river, they fly down and ſcratch up the eggs, and eat them all.

The King of the Vultures is the moſt elegant bird of this kind. It is found in South America. His head and neck are covered with a fleſh-coloured ſkin; behind the head it is of a deep red, and round his neck he has a looſe ruff of feathers; into this ſkin he can draw back and hide his head.

There is one kind of Vulture in Mexico, in America, that can raiſe the feathers behind its head, in the form of a crown; and it is ſaid, that with one ſtroke of its bill it could break the ſkull of a man.

But the Condor is the largeſt Vulture of all; it is the ſize of a ſheep; and when its wings are opened they are thirteen or fourteen, and ſome ſay eighteen feet acroſs.

One Condor is ſtrong enough to kill a cow, and two of them can devour it: when it flies

down upon the ground, its noiſe is almoſt loud enough to make one deaf.

Sometimes it will venture to attack a boy of ten years of age, and often carries off a ſheep or a deer, and flies away with it in its talons; and it will take little children, if it can find them, to feed its young ones.

The Condor is found in the Andes, in South America; the Andes are the higheſt mountains in the world.

The claws of the Vulture are not ſo hooked as thoſe of the Eagles, becauſe they walk more upon the ground. Their eyes are not at all ſunk in their heads. They build their neſts amongſt rocks, very difficult to come at, and lay two or three eggs.

They ſmell very diſagreeably, and a very offenſive humour is conſtantly running from the noſtrils of ſome of them.

Under the feathers there is a fine down; and at Grand Cairo their ſkins are ſold and made into very comfortable dreſſes.

ORDER 1

Genus 2 Falco.

EAGLE.

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GENUS 2. FALCO.

THE FALCON.

The whole beak of the Falco kind is hooked; it has a cere, which is a naked waxy ſkin, that covers the baſe of the beak. The noſtrils are ſmall, oval, and placed in the cere.

The head is cloſely covered with feathers; and the tongue is divided at the point. The legs and feet are ſcaly.

THERE are many ſpecies of the Falco genus, viz. Eagles, Falcons, Buzzards, Hawks and Kites.

There are Eagles in every quarter of the world; in Europe, Aſia, Africa, and America.

The Eagle can ſee farther and better than any bird; but cannot ſmell ſo well as the Vulture. It never eats any thing which it does not kill itſelf; and when it has eaten as much as it wants at once, it flies away, and does not come back to the ſame thing any more.—So that the Eagle is not nearly ſo greedy as the Vulture.

Eagles carry away fawns, and kids, and lambs, and hares, and rabbits, and partridges, and a great many other little animals, to feed their young

ones; ſometimes an Eagle will kill a calf and drink its blood; but they never fly together in flocks, as the Vultures do; for only two Eagles live in the ſame place.

They live a long while, ſometimes more than an hundred years; and ſome have imagined that they at laſt die of hunger; for when the Eagle is very old, its upper mandible (or the upper bill) grows ſo crooked, that ſome have thought it could not feed itſelf.

If it die of hunger, when very old, (which perhaps may be a miſtake,) it can live a long time without eating.

The Emperor of Germany had one at Vienna, and the keeper forgot to give it any food for twenty-one days; yet it did not die.

There are many different kinds of Eagles.

One kind is called the Golden Eagle: when theſe Eagles grow old, the feathers of their heads, which were brown, turn grey.

They breed in high cliffs in the mountains of Ireland; and ſometimes they are found in Caernarvonſhire, in Wales, and on the mountain of Snowden which is in Wales.

There were two Eagles that built their neſt near a poor man's houſe in Ireland: the man had a large family of children; and every day when the

the old Eagles were gone, he climbed up to their neſt and took away for his family a part of the fawn, and ſome of the hares, and rabbits, and partridges, which they had brought for their young ones. When the little Eagles were almoſt ready to fly, he cut their wings, to keep them in their neſts; and the old ones continued to bring them hares, and kids, and rabbits, a great while longer.

In the Lake of Killarney, which is in Ireland, there are ſeveral iſlands. In one of theſe iſlands two Eagles had built their neſt, and hatched their young. A thoughtleſs boy went to rob this neſt, he pulled off his clothes, and ſwam to the iſland, when the old Eagles were away, and he was ſo cruel as to ſteal their young; he tied them with a ſtring, and had waded into the lake until the water reached up to his neck, and then began to ſwim.

The old Eagles were coming back to their neſt, and ſaw him taking away the Eaglets (or young Eagles); ſo they flew down upon him, and with their ſtrong crooked beaks, and ſtrong crocked talons, they ſoon killed him.

Eagles kill and devour poultry. In the Orkney Iſlands, which are a little north of Scotland, if any man kill an Eagle, every family in the pariſh is obliged to make him a preſent of a hen. In

thoſe countries where Eagles live, it is not ſafe to leave infants out of doors. Two little children in Scotland were carried away by ſome Eagles to their young ones; but the Eagles were ſeen as they were flying away, and ſome people climbed up to their neſts, and brought away the infants before they were much hurt.

The emperor of Thibet, in Aſia, has many Eagles, who are taught to hunt and kill hares, deer, and foxes; and ſome of them have ſo much courage, that they fly down upon the wolf, and attack him with great fury. Another kind of Eagle is called the Black Eagle; there are many of theſe in Scotland; they will kill deer, and in the iſland of Rum, (which is on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland) there is not one left; the Eagles have killed them all.

Once there was found in the Peak of Derbyſhire a neſt of the Ringtail Eagle; it was made of great ſticks; one ſide reſted on the edge of a rock, the other on two birch-trees; upon the ſticks there was a layer or covering of ruſhes; over the ruſhes, a covering of heath; and then another layer of ruſhes. There was only one young one found in the neſt, and an addle egg; by theſe were three heath-cocks, a lamb, and a hare;

hare; the neſt was quite flat, and about two yards acroſs.

There are other Eagles, called Sea Eagles, and Oſpreys. They live upon fiſh, which they take by darting down upon them as the fiſh are ſwimming near the ſurface of the water. Their legs have no feathers.

The Oſprey builds its neſt on the ground among reeds, and lays three or four eggs; its outward toe eaſily turns backwards, and the claw of that toe is larger than the claw of the inner toe, which is very uſeful to the Oſprey for holding the fiſh, which are ſlippery.

Beſides theſe, there is the Bald Eagle of North Carolina, which is one of the Engliſh ſettlements in North America. The Bald Eagles breed all the year round; for when the young are covered with down, the old Eagle lays eggs in the neſt, and leaves them to be hatched by the warmth of the Eaglets.

The Bald Eagles cannot fly very faſt, but there are fiſhing hawks in America, which plunge into the water, and catch the fiſh: the Bald Eagle watches them, and whilſt the hawk is loaded with his prey, flies after him. The hawk is afraid, and, to eſcape, lets fall the fiſh, and the Eagle catches it before it reaches the water. The Bald

Eagle watches the fowlers when they go out a ſhooting, and is ſure to catch all the little birds that they wound.

There are Eagles in the four quarters of the world; in Europe, Aſia, Africa, and America. Beſides the Eagles, there are many other birds of the falcon kind, but they are all ſmaller than the Eagles. The Gentil Falcon is found in the Alps, which are very high mountains that divide France and Switzerland from Italy. Theſe Falcons are frequently caught, and made tame, and taught to fly after pigeons, and little birds, and to kill them.

There is in India an animal called the Antelope; it is ſwifter than a Greyhound, and will not ſuffer a man, with a gun, to come near it.

In order to catch the Gazelle, or Antelope, they take a Falcon and Greyhounds, and when they ſee the Antelope, the Falcon flies after him, and alighting upon his head flaps his wings, ſo that the poor Antelope cannot ſee which way to run; then the Greyhounds readily overtake and catch him. Sometimes Herons are taken by Falcons. The Heron is a larger bird than the Falcon, and ſtronger, and has beſides a very long beak. The Falcon endeavours to fly above the Heron, and frequently they riſe ſo high as ſcarce-

ly

ly to be ſeen from the ground. If the Falcon get uppermoſt, he ſtrikes his talons at the wing of the Heron, ſo that the poor Heron, being diſabled from flying, may fall to the ground and be caught. But if the Falcon ſhould miſs his ſtroke, then the Heron ſtrikes his bill through the Falcon, and kills him. There are ſeveral other Falcons uſed for killing game, and they have all long wings.

Beſides the long-winged Falcons, there are others, which have ſhorter wings, and they are called Hawks and Kites.

The Kite has a forked tail, like a Swallow. In this it differs from all other birds of the Falcon kind, and its wings are longer than the Hawk's; he is almoſt always ſuſpended in the air, and his flight is ſo eaſy, that he ſeems to ſwim, or glide, rather than to fly. He uſes his tail to direct his courſe. Kites are very apt to deſtroy little chickens. At Conſtantinople, which is the capital of Turkey in Europe, they are very fond of Kites, for they are of the ſame uſe there as the Vultures near Grand Cairo, in Egypt; and they are ſo tame, that they fly towards thoſe who whiſtle to call them.

Buſbequius ſays, that he ordered the inſide of a Sheep to be cut into ſmall pieces; he whiſtled to the Kites, and many flew about him; and when

when he threw the ſmall pieces of the Sheep into the air, they would catch them before they could fall to the ground.

The Buzzard is a ſhort-winged Falcon. If the hen Buzzard ſhould by any accident be killed, the cock will ſit upon the eggs, and hatch the young ones. It lays its eggs ſometimes in a Crow's neſt, which it makes larger, and lines with wool.

The Keſtril is another. It builds in the hollows of trees, the holes of high rocks, or in old towers and ruins. We often ſee it high in the air, ſuſpended, and almoſt without motion. All this time it is watching for its prey, and frequently darts down and takes up a little chicken, if it ſtray from the hen; and this all other Hawks and Kites will do when they can.

Fowlers ſometimes uſe a Hawk, called the Hobby, when they go out to take Larks. When the Larks ſee the Hobby they lie cloſe to the ground through fear, and the Fowler draws his net over them.

There is a Falcon in America, called the Sufflator. When he is angry or affrighted he puffs up his head until it appears as large as his body.

Some of the Falcons not only eat hares, and rabbits, and ſmall birds, but they feed upon lizards, and worms, and inſects.

GENUS

HORNED OWL.

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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JAN

GENUS 3. STRIX.

THE OWL.

Has a ſtrong hooked Bill, without a cere, but covered at the bottom near the noſtrils with ſetaceous feathers, (that is, feathers that grow ſmaller towards the end,) and which fall backwards. The noſtrils are oblong.

The head, eyes, and ears are large, and the tongue bifid; the outward toe can be turned backward, and do the office of a hind toe. The claws are hooked and ſharp.

OWLS, like Cats, can ſee with very little light; the pupils of their eyes, though they grow leſs in the light, are ſtill round; but the pupils of the eyes of cats are always of the ſame length, and only grow narrower in the light.

Owls have a very quick hearing, and can move both the mandibles of their bills. They ſail through the air rather than fly, their motion is ſo eaſy and ſo ſilent. They enjoy themſelves moſt in moonlight nights; it is then they catch in greateſt abundance their prey, which is moles, and mice, and moths, and inſects of ſeveral kinds; for though the bright light of the ſun dazzle their eyes, yet they require a little light; and when the moon does not ſhine, they ſeek their

their prey in the twilight of the evening and in the morning.

In the middle of the day they are quite overpowered with the light. The little birds do not like the owl, becauſe in the evening he flies after them, and would kill and eat them if he could. When they diſcover the place where he is in the day, they get together in great numbers, and fly about him and teize him; for they are not afraid of him then, when he is ſleepy, and cannot bear the glare of the light.

There are two diviſions of Owls; one is called the Eared or Horned Owls, becauſe they have feathers on each ſide of their heads, which ſtand up like ears.

The other diviſion is called the Owls with ſmooth heads: but they have both large circles of feathers, which grow round the eyes.

Owls eat frogs, and mice, and lizards, and moles, which they ſkin with great ſkill. They ſometimes eat young pigeons and little birds; but though they ſwallow, they cannot digeſt the feathers, which remain a little time in their ſtomachs, and collect there in the form of balls. From time to time they throw up theſe little round balls, and a great number of them are found in the hollow trees, where they rooſt.

There

Genus 3 Strix.

OWL with smooth head.

Published Oct.r 2.d 1786 by Jos. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London.

BRITISH LEGATION
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JAN

There are ſeveral kinds of Owls; one kind is called the Tawney Owl. It is very large, and is found in Syria, which is in Turkey in Aſia. It will deſtroy little lambs, and little children too, when it can find them.

There is a brown Owl which kills hares, and rabbits, and moles, and ſkins them very curiouſly. This kind of Owl lives in England, and other parts of Europe.

In England too we find two or three kinds of Owls with ears, and ſeveral kinds of thoſe that have ſmooth heads.

The Eagle Owl, or great Horned Owl, is as large as a gooſe. The common White Owls frequently rooſt in barns, and the farmers are very fond of them, becauſe they kill the rats and mice that would eat their corn.

There is a very large kind of Owl at Hudſon's Bay, which is as white as ſnow Hudſon's Bay is in North America.

No bird flies ſo ſmoothly as the Owl. In the duſk of the evening he ſkims ſilently near the ground, backwards and forwards, by the ſides of the hedges, in ſearch of mice, and frogs, and moles.

The great Horned Owl is ſometimes uſed to decoy the Kite. They tie to his leg a fox's tail, that he may make a ſtrange appearance. He is then

then ſuffered to fly, and in that trim he ſails ſlowly along, flying very low as all Owls do.

The Kite ſees him from above, and flies after him, thinking perhaps that he may be proper food, and ſo comes cautiouſly nearer and nearer; then the falconer lets a ſtrong hawk fly after the Kite, and catches him.

The great Horned Owl builds its neſt ſometimes in an old hollow tree, but more frequently in caverns of rocks, or in the holes of high and old walls. Its neſt is three feet acroſs, lined with leaves, and the Owl lays from one to three eggs. The Horned Owl ſeldom is at the trouble of making a neſt, but generally uſes the old neſt of a Magpye.

When he is attacked by other birds, he defends himſelf very well with his beak and his claws, and if the bird be ſtronger than himſelf, he lies down on his back, and fights with his beak and his claws.

There is another kind of Owl, called the little Horned Owl. Theſe, like the Swallows, aſſemble together in Autumn to paſs into other climates.

And there is an American Owl, which burrows like a rabbit, and lays its eggs in a hole under ground.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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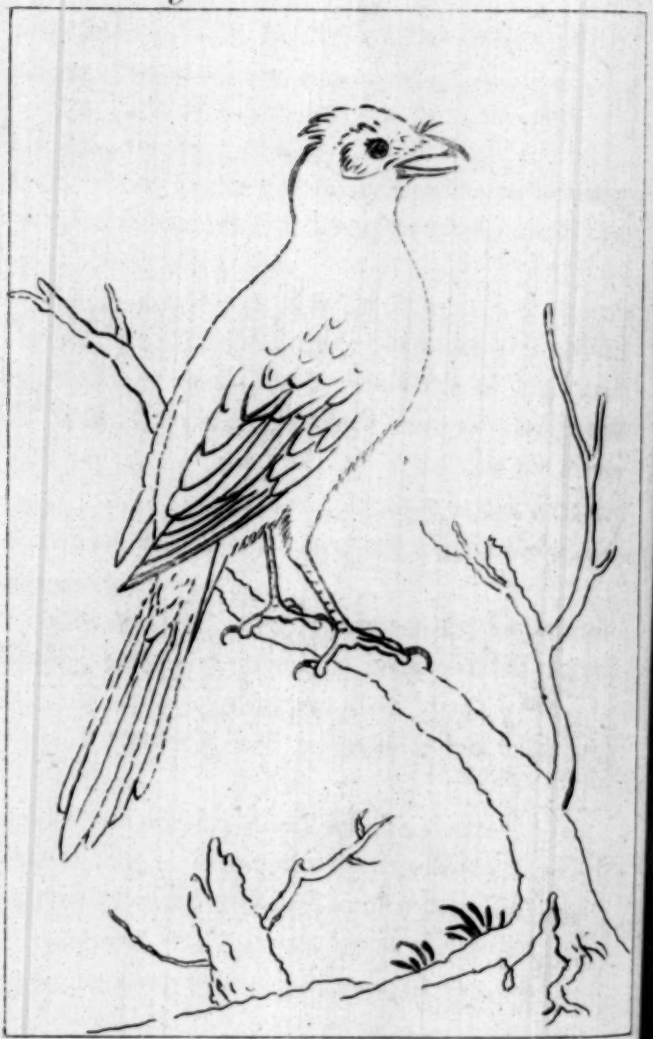
JAN

ORDER 1

Genus 4 Lanius.



BUTCHER BIRD.

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GENUS 4. LANIUS.

THE BUTCHER BIRD, OR SHRIKE.

The Butcher Bird's beak is not very crooked; it has a kind of proceſs, or tooth, on each ſide, near the point, and is naked at the baſe.

The tongue is jagged at the end.

The outmoſt toe is cloſely joined to the middle toe, as far as the firſt joint.

THE Butcher Birds are much ſmaller than the Kite, but they are very fierce: for they will attack birds four times as large as themſelves.

They ſeize the birds, that they prey upon, by the throat, and ſtrangle them; then they fix them upon thorns, and pull them to pieces, becauſe their talons are too weak to hold the birds whilſt they tear them with their beaks.

All the young ones live together, the firſt year, with their parents.

Their manner of flying is generally up and down, and not ſtraight forwards, or ſideways.

Beſides birds, they ſometimes feed on inſects.

Several kinds of Butcher Birds live in England, and in other parts of Europe.

One kind has a creſt upon its head, and is found in Bengal, (which is in the Eaſt-Indies) the Eaſt-Indies are in Aſia.

There

There is a creſted Butcher Bird found in America.

One kind of the Butcher Bird watches the Hawks, and alarms the little birds when they are coming.

All the birds of which we have been reading; firſt, the Vulture; then the Falco, of which kind are the Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, and Kites; thirdly, the Owl kind; and fourthly, the Butcher Bird. They all belong to the order of the Accipitres, becauſe their beaks are hooked, the upper mandible is armed on each ſide with a kind of tooth; the noſtrils are wide.

Their feet are formed for reſting upon, ſhort and ſtrong. Under their toes they have warty knobs. Their claws are hooked, and very ſharp. The body, head, and neck muſcular; their ſkin tough. They are not proper for food. They live upon prey and carcaſſes. In general they build their neſts high, and lay about four eggs. The female is the moſt beautiful and courageous. They pair.

As theſe birds live upon prey only, or animal food, we ſee how kind Providence has been, in giving them very good eyes to ſee their prey at a diſtance; and ſtrong bills, and ſtrong talons, to pull it in pieces; and they can fly very ſwiftly to overtake it.

If

If there were no Vultures in hot countries, the dead bodies, and the inſide of cows and ſheep, which are thrown away, would ſoon become very offenſive, and occaſion many diſorders among the inhabitants; beſides, they eat the Serpents and Crocodile's eggs, and prevent them from increaſing too faſt.

In Paleſtine, or the Holy Land, which is in Turkey in Aſia, they would be overrun with Rats and Mice, if the Vultures did not deſtroy them.

If there were no Eagles, nor Falcons, nor Hawks, nor Kites, perhaps the little birds which they prey upon would increaſe ſo faſt, that there might not be food enough for them, and then almoſt all of theſe little birds muſt be half famiſhed. It is better for them that a few ſhould be killed by birds of prey, than that all ſhould pine away and die of hunger.

Almoſt all birds of prey lay very few eggs, and have very few young ones. Providence has prevented their increaſing very faſt, for if they did, they would ſoon deſtroy all the little birds, and at laſt die of hunger themſelves.

The Owls are very uſeful to us in killing Mice and Rats, that would deſtroy our corn, and Moles that get into the fields, and would throw out the corn by its roots.

God

God is very wiſe, and very good; for every creature he has made was made for ſome good purpoſe; and he has given to each the power of taking care for itſelf.

ORDER II. Picæ.

GENUS 5. PSITTACUS.

PARROTS.

Have hooked beaks, the upper mandible is moveable, and furniſhed with a cere in ſome ſpecies.

The tongue fleſhy and obtuſe, (that is blunt); and not divided. The head is large and the crown flat.

Two of its toes are placed before, and two behind; and its legs are ſhort.

THE ſituation of the toes in the Parrots, two being placed before, and two behind, makes them very uſeful in climbing trees; and they have the power of turning one of the hind toes before, which they do when they take any thing in their claws to eat, ſtanding all that time on the other foot.

As Parrots cannot hop from tree to tree, they uſe both their beaks and their claws in climbing; firſt

BRITISH MUSEUM
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Genus 5 Psittacus.

COCKATOO.

Published Oct.r 2.d 1786 by Jos.Johnson St.Pauls Church Yard Lond.

ORDER 2

Genus 5 Psittacus.

PARROT.

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taking hold of the branch above them with beak, and afterwards they graſp it with their s, and ſo raiſe up their bodies. They uſe beak too as a kind of third foot; for, as deſcend from their perches, they often reſt of their weight upon it, before they remove r of their feet.

here are ſeveral kinds of Parrots: the Cocka- s a beautiful bird of the Parrot kind; his ers are white, and his beak very round and ked: he has a creſt of long feathers on his , which he can raiſe or lower when he es.

Ternate, (which is one of the Molucca ds,) and in other parts of the Eaſt Indies, Cockatoos build their neſts on the tops of s.

he Cockatoo may be taught to ſpeak, but o plainly as many other kinds of Parrots.

here is another kind of Parrot, without any , and a ſhort tail. The Grey Parrot from nea is one of theſe. It is eaſily taught to , when young, and will readily imitate the of a voice that is harſh.

lady in France had a Parrot that was very of the cook-maid, and would follow her t the houſe, and expreſs the greateſt ſatisfac-

tion and fondneſs, when he had climbed upon her ſhoulder.

The maid had once a ſwelled finger, which gave her great pain. All the time ſhe was ill, the Parrot would not leave her chamber, but ſeemed very unhappy; eſpecially when her pain was ſo violent as to make her complain.

Scaliger ſpeaks of a Parrot who had learnt to imitate the Savoyard's dance, and to repeat their ſong. The Savoyards live near the Alps.

The Parrot eats almoſt any thing, when he is kept tame; but meat, which he is fond of, is very hurtful to him; it brings on a diſorder, which makes him gnaw and pull out his feathers.

There are a great variety of Parrots in Brazil, in South America; and the people there ſpend much of their time in teaching them to talk. They have the art of improving the colours of Parrots: when they are young, it is ſaid that they pull out ſome of the feathers, and drop upon the part the blood of a beautiful Frog, which is found in Brazil. This Frog is of a fine blue colour, with lines of gold; and the new feathers of the Parrot, which would have been green, by theſe means, become yellow or red.

But it is very cruel, even in Savages, to do ſo.

They

The natives catch the young Parrots by cutting down the trees in which the nests are built; and they shoot the old ones with blunt arrows, or pieces of stick, covered with cotton, which beats down the Parrot, but does not always kill it. Sometimes they make a fire under the trees where the Parrots are, and throw upon it gum, and green pimento, (a kind of spice,) which produce a smoke that stupifies the Parrots, and they drop from the tree.

Some of the smaller Parrots are very nice food. In South America, on the banks of the river of Amazons (which is the largest river in the world,) the Indians kill Parrots and Monkies with little arrows; the points of these arrows have been dipped in the juice of a poisonous plant, and they blow them through a hollow piece of cane.

Parrots live generally upon the fruit and seeds of trees. They are very fond of the seeds of the cotton-tree, but that soon intoxicates them. When they eat the seeds of spice-trees, their flesh tastes like cloves and cinnamon.

They generally build their nests in the holes of hollow trees; especially those which have been made and forsaken by Woodpeckers. It is said, that in Africa, several kinds of Parrots fix their nests at the end of the slender twigs of a tree, for

fear of the Monkies. When they are kept tame, they are ſubject to fits; they ſometimes fall down ſuddenly, and lie for a little while as though they were dead.

Parrots are in ſuch numbers at Bengal, (which is in Aſia,) and on the coaſt of Africa, that the Indians and Negroes are obliged to watch their fields about the time that their maize, (or Indian corn) and their rice is ripening, to prevent the Parrots from deſtroying their harveſt.

There is a kind of Parrot called the Paroquet.

Some Paroquets have ſhort tails, like the Cockatoo and Grey Parrot; and others have long tails, which end in a point.

Paroquets generally fly in flocks; they are green, like the leaves of the trees, and fowlers find it very difficult to ſee them. When a Paroquet diſcovers a tree which bears the berries that he likes, he makes a loud cry, to inform the reſt, who immediately follow; and then the fowler ſhoots in among the flock and kills many of them.

The Maccaws are the largeſt of the Parrot kind: their colours, in general, are very beautiful, and their tails very long. They frequent the moiſt lands which are planted with palm-trees. They generally fly in pairs, and perch on the

ORDER 2

Genus 5 Psittacus.

PAROQUET.

Published Oct.r 2.d 1786 by Jos. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London.

ORDER 2

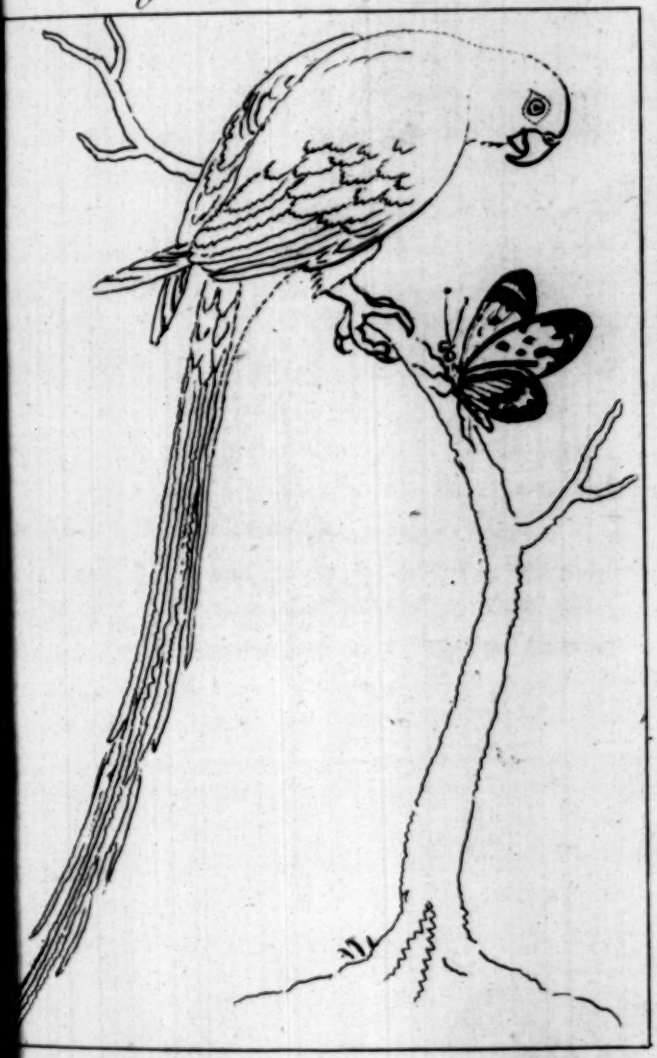
Genus 3 Psittacus.

MACAO.

Published Oct.r 2d 1786 by Jos. Johnson St Pauls Church Yard Londn

ORDER 2

Genus 5 Psittacus.



LONGTAILED PAROQUET.

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the tops of trees; they line their neſts with feathers, and lay two eggs. They have young ones twice a year; and the little Maccaws have often two ſmall worms in their noſtrils, which die of themſelves.

The Savages of the Antilles, (which are iſlands in the Atlantic Ocean, near America,) watch the moment when they are eating the fruit which has fallen from the trees, and on a ſudden they ſhout and clap their hands, and make a very loud noiſe; the Maccaws, terrified, forget the uſe of their wings, and ſuffer themſelves to be taken. The Indians wear their feathers in their ears, and in their caps, and ſometimes in their noſes.

If a ſmall quantity of parſley be given to a Maccaw, it occaſions a thick matter, like glue, to run from his beak, and he dies in an hour or two afterwards.

GENUS 6. RAMPHASTOS.

THE TOUCAN.

The Toucan's beak is very large, hollow, convex, and toothed like a saw on the edge, but irregularly.

The nostrils are behind the base of the beak.

The tongue is fringed like a feather.

In most, two of its toes are placed before and two behind, for climbing.

ONE kind of the Toucans is about the size of a Magpie. The head is very large, in order to support its bill; though the bill is very light, and not much thicker than parchment.

Between the head and the bill is a black line, and there the nostrils are placed; but they are so covered with feathers, that some have thought that the Toucans breathed through their beaks, and had no nostrils at all.

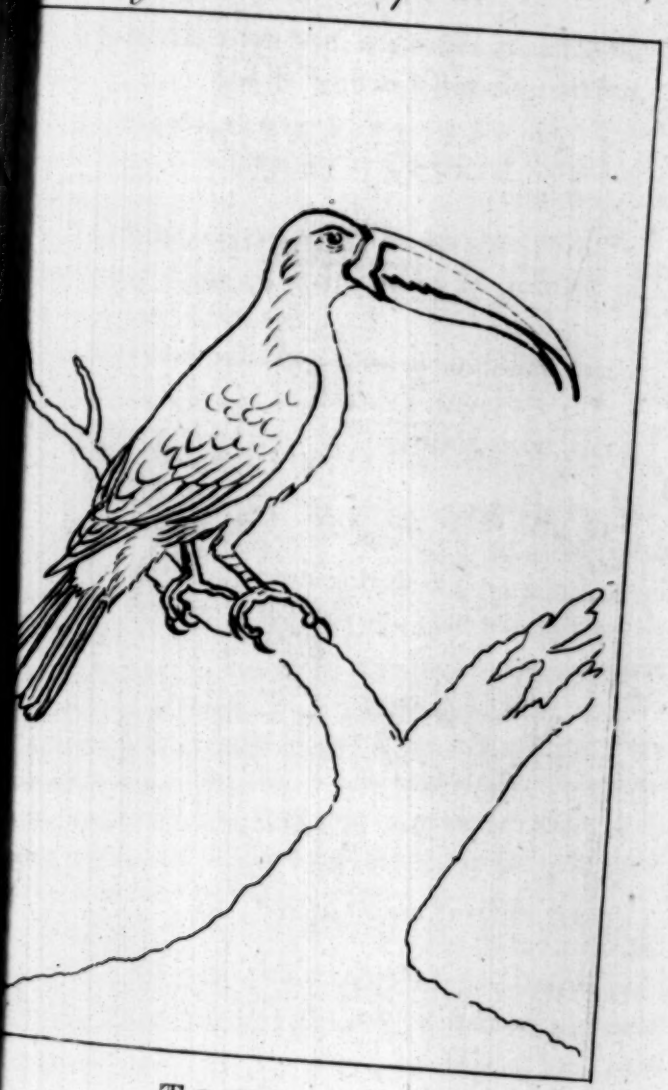
It lives chiefly upon the pimento, which it is very fond of, and it will eat fruit.

A Toucan was brought up tame; it was fed in the same manner as a Parrot; grapes were its favourite food; if they were pulled off the bunch and thrown into the air, it would catch them before they reached the ground.

It

ORDER 2

Genus 6 Ramphastos.



TOUCAN.

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It is an American bird, and builds its neſt in the holes of trees, and ſits with its bill at the entrance, ready to peck at and drive away the Monkies, who often come in order to kill and eat the young ones.

The Indians take the feathers from their breaſts, and wear them on their cheeks on account of their beautiful colours.

The Toucans make a kind of whiſtling noiſe.

They frequent moiſt places where the palm-trees grow, on account of their fruit, upon which they feed.

They fly in little flocks of ſix to ten, and though they fly aukwardly, (on account of their large beak and ſmall wings) they generally perch upon the tops of high trees.

They lay but two eggs, and are eaſily brought up tame. They ſwallow whole every thing that is given them, their beaks being too ſlight to break any thing. Their manner of feeding is to take their food with the point of the beak, and throw it up in the air, and to receive it as it is falling into their throats, their ſwallow being very wide.

They cannot bear cold, and even in warm climates, when they have been tamed, they make for themſelves a bed of leaves, or of ſtraw, or of

any thing they can get, to keep themſelves warm in the night.

The Toucan's legs are ſhort, ſo that they cannot well walk, but are obliged to hop.

GENUS 7. BUCEROS.

THE INDIAN RAVEN, OR HORN BILL, OR CALAO.

The beak is convex, bending, with ſharp edges, like that of the Crow; large, and toothed like a ſaw, or rather jagged at the edges.

The ſkull naked towards the forehead, with a large gibboſity (or lump) riſing upon it, and extending along part of the beak.

The noſtrils are behind the baſe of the beak.

The tongue is pointed and ſhort, and

The feet like the King Fiſher's, (that is to ſay)

The outward toe is united to the middle toe to the third joint. The legs are ſcaly.

THE beak of the Buceros (or Calao) is ſo tender, that it breaks at the edges very eaſily; and the upper and lower mandible only meet at the point.

They are found ſome in Africa, and ſome in Aſia.

The

ORDER 2

Genus 7 Buceros.

INDIAN RAVEN.

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The falſe or upper beak is not ſolid, in that caſe it would be too heavy; but it is formed of a light, ſpongy ſubſtance like the cells of a honey-comb.

The Calaos (or Indian Ravens) which live in China, feed ſometimes on carcaſes, and, like the Vulture, they follow the hunters.

Some kinds of the Buceros feed upon frogs and lizards, and one kind has two horns.

One kind of the Calao has no knob or prominence on its beak, but it is very large, and in the form of a ſcythe. In the beak of the Calao of Manilla there is a ſlight eminence. It is larger in the Calao of the iſland of Panay, ſtill more conſiderable in the Calao of the Philippine Iſlands, and monſtrous in the Calao Rhinoceros.

A Calao from Malabar was kept at Paris in a garden nearly a whole ſummer; he was fed upon fruit and lettuces, but he would eat fleſh and rats, and once he devoured a bird.

The Calao Rhinoceros hunts rats, and feeds upon them; and for this reaſon he is brought up tame in the Eaſt-Indies.

The legs of all the Calaos are ſo ſhort, that they walk very aukwardly.

GENUS 8. BUPHAGA.

THE BEEF-EATER.

The beak is ſtrait, and rather four-ſided; each mandible is enlarged at the end. Its feet are formed for walking or hopping. The twelve feathers of its tail are rather pointed.

THE colour of the body is a browniſh grey. It is found in Senegal, in Africa, and feeds upon the larvæ of flies, that is, upon the little maggots that become flies: in order to procure them it perches on the backs of Cows, and pierces their ſkin with its beak, and thus takes away the larvæ, which were produced from the eggs that the flies had laid there.

There are ſome flies which have a little piercer in the tail part of the body, and they make holes with it into the ſkin of cattle, and ſo lay their eggs there.

GENUS 9. CROTOPHAGA.

THE ANI.

The beak is compreſſed, thick, a little oval, arched, and with a keel on the top; the upper mandible bowed, and the lower ſtrait. Noſtrils round. Tongue flat, and pointed at the end.

Feet two before and two behind, for climbing.

Ten feathers in the tail.

THEY live in Africa and America, and fifty of them often build together a very large neſt. Their food is graſshoppers, and the ticks which infeſt cattle. The oxen ſuffer them quietly to pick the ticks from their ſkins, which, but for theſe birds, would increaſe ſo faſt as to be quite troubleſome.

The Crotophagæ, or Anis, fly in little flocks. They cover their eggs with leaves, and whilſt ſome are ſitting, others are enlarging the neſt. Sometimes they ſeparate their eggs by little partitions.

If one ſees a cat or any other animal that would hurt them, he informs the reſt by a very ſhrill cry.

GENUS 10. CORVUS.

THE RAVEN.

In the Corvi, the beak is ſtrong, convex, and ſharp at the edges; it is covered at the baſe with ſetaceous feathers, (or feathers like briſtles.)

The tongue is cartilaginous, or griſtly, and divided.

The outmoſt toe cloſely connected with the middle toe as far as the firſt joint, and the feet formed for hopping or walking, or three forward and one backward.

THERE are many birds of the Corvus genus, viz. Ravens, Carrion Crows, Rooks, Royſton Crows, Jackdaws, Jays, Magpies, Nutcrackers, Corniſh Choughs, &c.

CORAX. THE RAVEN.

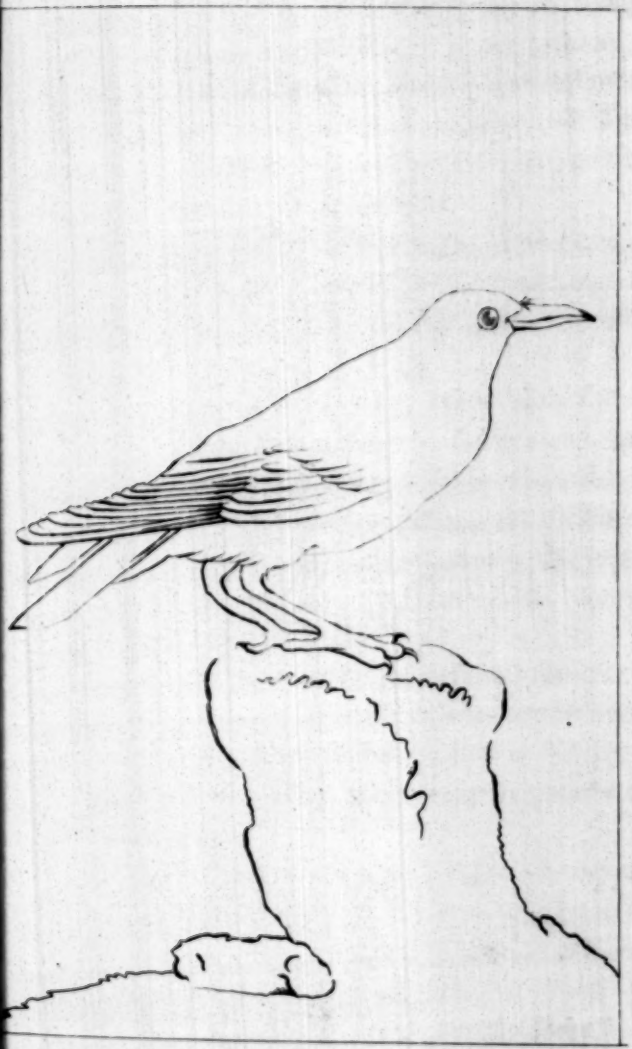
Ravens are found in England, and almoſt in every climate in the world.

They fly in pairs, and will deſtroy other birds if they can take them unawares.

Sometimes Ravens are grey, and ſometimes white, but this is not very common.

A Raven may be taught to catch birds like a Hawk, to fetch and carry like a Spaniel, and to ſpeak like a Parrot; and ſome have been taught to ſing like a man. When Ravens are tamed they become very great thieves, for they not only take any thing which they may want to eat, but they are very

Genus 10 Corvus.



RAVEN.

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very apt to fly away with any glittering things they can find, as money, rings, or tea ſpoons.

The Raven can ſmell to a very great diſtance. He is fond of carrion or dead carcaſes; but if he cannot get them, he will feed on fruit, or inſects, or almoſt any thing that he finds.

They generally build their neſts in trees, and lay five or ſix eggs. Sometimes they build in old towers. They generally uſe the ſame neſt, only repair it every year.

They do not like that any other birds ſhould live near them, and they even drive away their young, ſo ſoon as they can provide for themſelves.

In three of the Hebrides (which are iſlands on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland) there was a pair of Ravens in each, and they had driven away all other birds from thoſe iſlands.

Ravens are very cruel, for beſides killing little birds, they frequently pick out the eyes of ſheep and lambs when they find them ſick or helpleſs.

Ravens live a long time, very frequently one hundred years.

In Egypt Ravens are much regarded, becauſe (like the Vulture) they aſſiſt in devouring the carcaſes, which, if ſuffered to lie, would ſmell very diſagreeably.

Though Ravens be black, yet in ſome ſituations the black ſeems tinged with a beautiful blue.

When the weather is clear, they frequently amuſe themſelves by flying to a very great height.

When they have hatched their young, they feed them (as the Pigeons feed their little ones) with food which they have prepared in their own ſtomachs.

They are very fond of cherries, which they ſwallow whole, and after ſome little time they throw up the ſtones and the ſtems.

Ravens walk when they are upon the ground, but do not hop. Sometimes, during ſtorms, they are ſeen flying through the air, their beaks pointed with fire, it may be the lightning from the clouds.

CORONE.

THE CARRION CROW.

THE Carrion Crow, in the form of its body and manner of living, is like the Raven. It feeds on carrion, and ſometimes on grain and inſects, and will often pick out the eyes of young lambs. It lays five or ſix eggs, like the Raven; and like the Raven, it is ſometimes found black and ſometimes white.

In the ſummer Crows live in the woods, and deſtroy a great number of Partridges eggs, which they pierce very ſkilfully with their beaks to carry to their young.

In

In the winter they mix with the Rooks, and are often ſeen perching on the backs of Sheep and Pigs to eat the inſects there.

When they pair they do not, like Rooks, build near one another, but each pair has for itſelf a compaſs of near a mile.

They are ſometimes taken by naughty boys, who twiſt pieces of paper in the form of cones, or ſugar loaf papers. Towards the bottom they put a piece of meat, and ſpread bird-lime all round the inſide of the cone near the edge. They then make little holes in the ground, and place theſe papers with the point downwards. The Crows fly down when they ſmell the meat, and put their beaks into the paper to take it out; the bird-lime ſticks the cone to the feathers round their necks, ſo that it covers their eyes; and the poor crows, not being able to ſee, fly about, ſome ſtraight up very high, others againſt trees and buildings, where they hurt themſelves. Little boys do not perhaps conſider this, for we would hope they could not intend to be ſo cruel.

Crows feed upon inſects, worms, grain, and fruits; they break nuts by letting them fall out of their beaks from a great height upon a ſtone, and then pick up the kernel.

FRUGI-

FRUGILEUS.

THE ROOK.

ROOKS are gregarious, (that is, they live together in numbers.) They very much reſemble Crows, but the bill of the Rook is generally bare of feathers as far as the eyes, becauſe it is frequently thruſt into the ground to pick out grubs and earth-worms. Its feathers are more gloſſy than the Crow's, and it is a much more innocent bird, for it lives moſtly on grain and inſects.

Rooks build in woods and foreſts, and frequently in groves near houſes.

When once a certain number have agreed to live together, they do not ſuffer any ſtrange Rooks to come amongſt them. Early in the ſpring they meet together in their grove which they had forſaken in the winter, having left only five or ſix of their company, perhaps to prevent others from coming there.

They then keep together in pairs. The old Rooks, who built there laſt year, go to their old neſts, which only want a little mending; but the young ones of the laſt year have to fix upon a proper ſituation, about which they are very nice;

nice; for ſome branches are too weak, and ſome are not forked enough, and ſome perhaps may be too near another neſt; for the old Rooks will not allow themſelves to be diſturbed by the younger ones. The young Rooks, to ſave themſelves trouble, will frequently watch their opportunities to ſteal ſticks from another neſt; but as ſoon as they are diſcovered, a number of Rooks aſſemble, and pull to pieces all the neſt they have been building; then they have to begin the whole again: ſo they loſe much time, and have much trouble, which they would have ſaved if they had not ſtolen from others.

Whilſt one of the Rooks is gone to get the ſticks and roots of graſs to make the neſt, the other ſits upon the tree to guard it; and if they be very induſtrious, the neſt is finiſhed in three or four days.

Rooks live very much upon worms and inſects, and frequently turn over with their beaks the ſtones which lie upon the ground in ſearch of them.

They lay four or five eggs; and whilſt their young are unfledged, they feed them with the food which they have ſwallowed, as the Pigeon does.

CORNIX.

CORNIX.

THE ROYSTON CROW

IS very much like a Rook. It lives in Europe, but in England it is only a bird of paſſage.

It comes in the winter, and leaves us when the Woodcocks go away. It breeds in Sweden, and builds in trees. It breeds too in Germany, on the banks of the river Danube.

When the Royſton Crows are on the ſea-coaſt, they eat crabs and ſhell-fiſh, but at other times they feed upon grain, and caterpillars, and inſects, and carrion. The head, and back, and wings of this bird are black, gloſſed over with a beautiful ſhining blue.

MONEDULA.

THE JACKDAW

BUILDS in ſteeples, old ruins, and high rocks, and lays five or ſix eggs; his head is large for the ſize of his body. Jackdaws fly together in flocks; and feed on inſects, on grain, and on ſeeds. The back part of his head, his

breaſt, and ſtomach, are aſh-coloured; and all the reſt of his body is black, gloſſed with blue. Sometimes the Jackdaw is kept tame in a cage, and taught to ſpeak.

GLANDARIUS.

THE JAY.

THE Jay is a moſt beautiful bird. Its wings are barred, or ſtriped, with black and blue; the neck, back, breaſt, and ſtomach, are of a faint purple colour, mixed with grey.

The young follow their parents until ſpring. In the ſummer they eat peas and cherries in the garden; and in autumn they live upon acorns, and ſometimes they kill ſmall birds.

Their natural note is very diſagreeable; but they are eaſily taught to ſpeak.

The forehead of the Jay is white, with black ſtreaks; and his head is covered with long black feathers, which he can raiſe when he chuſes, and then they form a creſt.

The Jay is a very ſilly, and paſſionate bird; and ſometimes in his anger, entangles himſelf between two branches and ſo dies.

When

When the Jay perceives a Fox, he cries out, and a great number of Jays immediately come to him, and endeavour to frighten the Fox with their noiſe.

Like the Rook and the Magpie, he hoards that food which he does not immediately want to eat, and ſometimes forgets where he has left it. The nuts that he has buried in this manner begin to grow in the ſpring.

There is one kind of Jay that has red eyes, and its feathers are almoſt white.

PICA.

THE MAGPIE.

THE Magpie's bill is very much like the Butcher Bird's, for it has a ſharp proceſs (or notch) near the end of the upper mandible. He lives upon worms, and inſects, and ſmall birds, and carrion. If he meet with a Lark that is wounded, or a Chicken at a diſtance from the Hen, he is ſure to kill and eat them.

Magpies frequently perch upon the back of cows and ſheep, and eat any little inſects that breed there. They ſeek for the neſts of little birds, and very often ſuck their eggs.

There

There is ſcarcely any thing which Magpies do not eat; and they are very careful too, for when they have had enough, they endeavour to hide what is left for another time.

The Magpie is very ingenious in building his neſt: it is made firſt of ſmall twigs of hawthorn, and the thorns ſtick outwards, they are faſtened together with roots of graſs; it is then lined with graſs and wool, and plaſtered within with mud. The neſt is very large: and as it may eaſily be ſeen, and the Kites and Hawks would be very apt to take away its young, it is (perhaps for that reaſon) quite covered on the top with thorns: theſe thorns are curiouſly faſtened together, ſo that only one little hole is left for the Magpie to get in at.

The Magpie's head, and throat, and back, and tail, are of a beautiful black, gloſſed with green, and blue, and purple; his breaſt, and part of his wings, are white; and his tail is very long.

There are very beautiful Magpies in Italy and China, but they are not quite like this that is found in England.

The Magpie is eaſily made tame. Mr. Buffon knew one that paſſed both the day and the night with a number of cats, and made them all afraid of him.

It very ſoon learns to talk, and to imitate the voice of other animals. I have read of one that could counterfeit the cry of a calf, of a kid, and a ſheep, and even the pipe of a ſhepherd; another that could repeat a flouriſh of trumpets.

Plutarch (who has written the lives of many of the great men of Greece and of Rome) ſays, that a Magpie, who was very fond of learning to imitate almoſt every thing, having heard a flouriſh of trumpets, became ſilent all on a ſudden. This very much ſurpriſed thoſe who were uſed to hear him almoſt always talk; but they were ſtill more ſurpriſed ſoon after, when he imitated, very exactly, the ſound which the trumpets had made, with all the notes and changes.

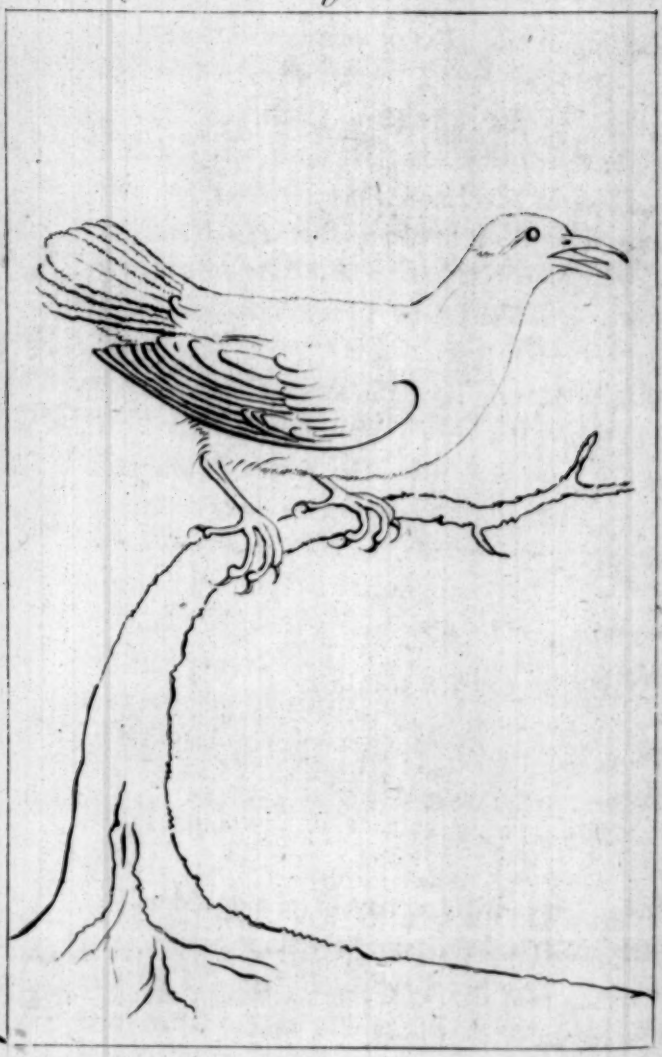
The Magpie is a very reſtleſs bird; when it is on the ground it is continually hopping about, and moving its tail.

No bird is more attentive to its young, for if any bird of prey flies near its neſt, the Magpie attacks him with great courage, and drives him away.

The Magpie lays ſeven or eight eggs, and only once a year, unleſs it be deprived of them, then it will lay a ſecond time, but fewer eggs; and if it be then robbed, it will lay a third time, but not ſo many eggs as before.

CARYO-

Genus 10 Caryocatactes.



NUTCRACKER.

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CARYOCATACTES.

THE NUTCRACKER,

IS found moſtly in mountainous countries, and lives upon nuts, acorns, wild berries, and pine kernels, and on inſects.

There are two kinds—one of them breaks the nuts, the other makes a hole in them.

They both hoard their food, like Jays and Magpies.

Their plumage is very remarkable, from the white triangular ſpots every where but on the head.

They are found in Savoy, in Switzerland, and in Auſtria; eſpecially upon thoſe mountains which are covered with firs.

A great flight of the Nutcrackers came one year into France, ſo tired, that they ſuffered themſelves to be beat down with ſticks, and to be caught by the hand.

They bore holes in trees like Woodpeckers: they make their neſts there, and ſome of the feathers in the middle of their tails are very much worn, as if they uſed them to help their climbing upon the ſides of trees.

GRACULUS,

GRACULUS.

THE CORNISH CHOUGH,

HAS a crooked bill, red and long; its legs are red, and the reſt of the body black. It frequents rocks, caſtles, and ruins by the ſea ſide. Its voice is like that of the Jackdaw: it is often kept in gardens to deſtroy worms and inſects. It is found in Cornwall, and in the mountains of Switzerland.

GENUS 11. CORRACIAS.

THE ROLLER.

His beak is cultrated, or ſharp at the edges, like the Crow's; crooked at the point, and without feathers at the baſe. Noſtrils narrow and naked.

The tongue is cartilaginous, (or griſtly,) and bifid, (that is, divided at the end.)

The feet formed for walking or hopping, the toes being placed three before and one behind.

THERE are many kinds of Rollers: ſome live in Europe, and feed upon beetles, frogs, acorns, and grain.

Some live in Asia, and some in Africa. Their feathers are beautiful shades of blue, and green, and white.

They generally build their nests in birch-trees; but in those countries where there are none of these trees, as in the island of Malta, and Africa, they are said to make their nests in the ground.

GENUS 12. ORIOLUS.

THE ORIOLE.

The bill is conic, convex, very sharp, and strait; the upper mandible slightly margined, and a little longer.

The tongue sharp and bifid.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, or three before and one behind.

THERE are a great many birds of this kind. They live in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, but mostly in warm climates.

The Galbula, or Golden Thrush, which is one of them, lives on insects and berries, and makes a nest in the form of a pitcher or jug, of leaves, and at the end of the smaller branches of trees.

Some of these birds have a stripe, which reaches from one eye to the other, round the back part of the head.

The

The black and yellow Daw, another bird of this kind, which lives in South America, builds a neſt in the form of an alembic; which is made very curiouſly of hair and fibres, woven together.

This neſt is hung at the end of a very ſmall branch; and 400 of them have been ſeen on one tree.

The neſt of the Baltimore is hung like a purſe, from a forked branch of a tree.

The Banana ſews his neſt very curiouſly to the under part of a leaf of the banana-tree, which ſerves as a covering, and is at the ſame time a part of the neſt. Its form is very ſingular, for it is like a quarter of an orange.

In the countries where they live there are a great many monkies and ſerpents; and they build their neſts in this manner, at the end of a very ſmall branch, that they may be ſecure from their attempts; for monkies and ſerpents are very fond of eating birds.

Albin ſays, that the Banana birds will ſometimes join together to attack a larger bird; and after they have killed him, will devour him, every one eating in his turn without quarrelling.

The Icterus Pterophœnicus, or Red-winged Starlings, fly together in great flocks; and ſometimes join with other birds, and deſtroy whole fields

fields of maize or Indian corn. They breed in Carolina and Virginia, always among ruſhes. They faſten together the tops of the ruſhes, as a canopy or covering to their neſts, which they build under them, and at ſo juſt a height; as always to be above the flowing of the water.

GENUS 13. GRACULA.

THE GRAKLE.

The beak is convex and compreſſed; rather bare at the baſe. Noſtrils ſmall.

The tongue ſtrait, pointed, and fleſhy.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, three before and one behind.

THE Minos are birds of this kind; they come from the iſland of Borneo, and from other iſlands in Aſia. They whiſtle, and talk, and ſing, better than the Parrot. They are of a blackiſh and violet colour; and there is a piece of yellow ſkin behind their head which reaches on each ſide to the eye. The beak is red, and yellow at the point.

Another bird of this kind is found in the Phillipine iſlands, in Aſia. The ſides of its head are

naked; and when it is angry, they appear very red. It has a black line of feathers on its head.

One that was kept in a cage ſwallowed a young rat whole, it firſt bruiſed the rat againſt the wires to make it ſoft.

Theſe birds are very fond of graſshoppers; a pair of them was ſent for to the Iſle of Bourbon near Africa, to eat the graſshoppers which were very troubleſome; they increaſed very faſt and killed all the graſshoppers, and now they are very troubleſome themſelves, for they eat the grapes and the dates and the corn, and fly into Pigeon-houſes and kill the young Pigeons.

Some birds of this genus are found in America, and ſome in Egypt.

There is one that comes from China, called the Chineſe Starling; its feathers are black, but its bill and legs are yellow; and a little tuft of feathers grows from the bottom of its bill.

Genus 14 Paradisea.

BIRD of PARADISE.

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GENUS 14. PARADISEA.

THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

The beak at its baſe, and the throat, are covered with ſoft feathers like velvet.

The feathers on the ſides, which grow under the wings, are very long.

The two upper tail feathers naked and diſtinct.

Legs and feet very ſtrong, and three toes before and one behind.

THE greater Bird of Paradiſe is very beautiful; the tail, the breaſt and ſtomach are of a brown or cheſnut colour; the throat is covered with green ſoft feathers like velvet; the feathers of the breaſt are of a dark blueiſh purple. They fly in flocks, and are brought from the Molucca Iſlands. The people there, when they catch theſe birds to ſend them to Europe, generally cut off their legs. This has made many who never ſaw them alive, imagine that they have no legs.

Birds of Paradiſe feed much upon Butterflies; like Swallows, they are almoſt always flying.

The King Bird of Paradiſe lives in the Spice Iſlands, in Aſia. The bill is yellow, the upper mandible covered half way over with orange-coloured velvet-like feathers, and ſo is part of the

head and throat; its tail is very ſhort, and the wings reach beyond it; but from the upper part of the tail there are two ſtems of feathers about ſix inches long, naked except towards the end, where they have webs on one ſide, and curl round. Its head and back are red; under each wing it has a remarkable tuft of ſeven or eight feathers tipt with green; and on its breaſt there is a creſcent of feathers of a dark gloſſy green.

Birds of Paradiſe are ſo extremely light, from the great quantity of their feathers, that their flight is liable to be affected by the winds; on this account, perhaps, they chuſe for their abode thoſe countries in which high winds are not frequent.

GENUS 15. TROGON.

THE CURUCUI, OR COUROUCOU.

The beak is ſhorter than the head, compreſſed, hooked, and on the margin, or edge, a little waved, ſurrounded at the baſe with fringe-like feathers.

The toes placed two before and two behind, for climbing.

The legs are ſhort and weak, and covered with feathers or down.

THEY are found in South America. One of this kind has a yellow bill, ſurrounded with ſtiff black feathers that point forward; they

have black feathers round their eyes; the throat, the top of the head, and back, is of a beautiful green, gloſſed with blue and gold; the forepart of the neck a blue green; the wings are aſh-coloured; the breaſt and ſtomach of a beautiful orange; the ſix middle feathers of the tail are green tipt with black; the other feathers white ſtriped acroſs with black, except at the top, where they are white.

Their note is melancholy. They retire into thick foreſts, and lay in hollow trees upon decayed wood, which they break very ſmall with their bills. They lay three or four white eggs, and their neſt is very ſoft. The male bird brings food to the female whilſt ſhe ſits and ſings, perched on a neighbouring bough. They feed their young with worms, caterpillars, and inſects.

Rats, and ſnakes, and birds of prey often devour them. They are about the ſize of a pigeon. They do not fly much, but ſit on the ſame bough for the greateſt part of the day. Their feathers eaſily fall off. They are beautiful. The Mexicans uſe them in making pictures and other ornaments, which are very pleaſing.

GENUS 16. BUCCO.

THE TAMATIA, OR BARBET.

The beak is cultrated, compreſſed at the ſides, bent at the point, with a margin on each ſide.

The gape of the beak extending to below the eyes.

The noſtrils covered with ſtiff reclining feathers.

The toes two before and two behind, for climbing.

TAMATIAS live in the moſt ſolitary parts of foreſts; they are never ſeen in flocks; their flight is heavy and ſhort; they perch moſt on the buſhieſt trees, and remain upon them a long time without changing place; their head is large in proportion to the body, and the tail ſhort. They often draw their heads inwards towards the ſhoulders, and ſeem rather melancholy. Their bodies are as broad as they are long. They feed moſtly on inſects, and are found both in Africa and America.

One of the Tamatias has a yellow ſtripe acroſs the back.

The Tamatias are ſo indolent, that you may ſhoot at them more than once, before they will fly from the branch where they are perched.

GENUS

GENUS 17. CUCULUS.

THE CUCKOW.

The beak is ſmooth and bending.

The noſtrils a little prominent (or jutting out,) and margined, (or with a rim.)

The tongue flatted, ſtrait, and in the form of an arrow.

The toes two before and two behind, for climbing.

Ten feathers in the tail, which is in the form of a wedge.

THE Cuckow is rather ſmaller than a pigeon; he is a bird of paſſage; he makes his appearance early in the ſpring, and ſtays with us but a ſhort time. If the ſeaſon be mild, he comes the ſooner. The Cuckow is ſilent for ſome time after his firſt coming. His note is cuckow, from which he takes his name; and he repeats it in the morning, in the ſpring, from a withered bough, on which he is generally perched.

The Cuckow makes no neſt of her own, for ſhe cannot well ſit, her ſtomach is ſo large; ſo ſhe lays her eggs in the neſts of other little birds, and leaves to them the care of hatching and rearing her young. They feed upon inſects and birds eggs, but never upon birds; indeed, the Cuckow is fearful, and flies from the ſmall birds, who con-

tinually purſue him and teaze him; but the bird called the Wryneck is his chief tormentor, for he is continually following him, and warning the little birds of his coming.

On many plants in the ſummer, a froth is frequently found, which ſome people have fancied to be the Cuckow's ſpittle, but this is quite a miſtake; for this froth comes from an inſect called the Cicada, and is intended as a ſhelter for its larva (or the young Cicadas in their grub ſtate.)

The Cuckows moult or ſhed their feathers very late; and it is ſaid they have ſometimes been found in the winter, in hollow trees, without any feathers, and in appearance much like a toad.

Cuckows, after they are hatched, cannot take care of themſelves ſo ſoon as many other little birds, and they continue to follow the bird in whoſe neſt they were hatched for ſupport, after her own young ones have left her.

Cuckows ſeem to have an averſion to water, and are ſeldom, if ever, ſeen to drink.

There are many kinds of Cuckows, and they live in different parts of the world; but the Cuculus Indicator of Africa, is perhaps one of the moſt wonderful. In the morning and evening his ſhrill cry, chir, chir, is frequently heard. He ſeems to call thoſe who are ſeeking for honey

in

in the wood. They anſwer his call, and come nearer to him; as ſoon as he ſees them he flies a little way before, and at laſt alights upon the hollow tree, in which the bees have made their hive. If the hunters do not immediately reach the tree he returns to meet them, redoubles his cries, goes back again to the tree, and perches upon it. He ſeems to do every thing in his power to point out to them the treaſure he has found. Perhaps without the help of man, he might not be able to procure it for himſelf. Whilſt they are taking the honey, he watches them attentively in a neighbouring buſh, waiting for his ſhare of the ſpoil; and they always give him a part, that he may ſhew them to other trees where there are hives.

GENUS 18. YUNX.

THE WRY-NECK.

The beak is ſmooth and pointed, weak and a little bowed.

The noſtrils depreſſed, hollow, and conſpicuous.

The tongue ſmooth, long-ſhaped like a worm, and ending in a ſharp bony point.

Ten flexible feathers in the tail.

Two toes before, and two behind, for climbing.

THE Wry-Neck feeds upon inſects, which it pierces and takes with its tongue. The tongue, like that of the Woodpecker, is covered with a kind of glue. Its colours are not very beautiful, but it is ſtreaked in the moſt delicate manner; a number of black ſtrokes divide the head and the back; and the ſides of the head and neck are beautifully marked with fine lines of black, and of a reddiſh brown.

It is a bird of paſſage, but generally viſits us before the Cuckow. It has a ſtrange way of turning its head back to its ſhoulders, eſpecially when frightened, and this is the reaſon why it is called the Wry-Neck. This motion is generally not ſudden, but gradual, like the Caterpillars when they are going to ſpin, and with his eyes half ſhut. One of theſe birds was confined in a cage; he always

ways turned to face thoſe who came near him, and raiſed himſelf upon his ſpurs, and coming forward with his tail ſpread, at the ſame time raiſed the feathers of his head; then he withdrew haſtily, and ſtruck his beak againſt the bottom of the cage, and this he did frequently. The young Wry-Necks begin to turn their heads about in the neſt. The Wry-Neck builds in hollow trees, and generally lays nine eggs. He conſtantly follows the Cuckow, and gives the little birds notice when the Hawk is coming. He lives very much in hollow trees, and feeds upon the inſects which he finds there; though ſome ſay, he takes all his food upon the ground. Though the Wry-Neck have two toes before and two behind, he does not run up the trunks of the trees like the Woodpecker.

He can raiſe the feathers of his head, and make a creſt like a Jay.

GENUS 19. PICUS.

THE WOODPECKER.

The beak is ſtrong, ſtrait, of a many-ſided figure, channelled, and at the point formed like a wedge.

The noſtrils covered with ſetaceous feathers, or feathers like briſtles.

The tongue ſmooth, ſhaped like a worm, very long, armed at the end with a ſharp bony point, barbed on each ſide, or rather beſet with little briſtles, which turn backwards, and are covered with a kind of glue.

The toes, in all but one kind, are placed two behind and two before, for climbing.

THE tongue ending in a ſharp bony point, with briſtles on each ſide, is very fit for taking flies or ants out of hollows in the barks of trees; and flies and ants, and other inſects, are its only food.

The Woodpecker's legs are ſhort and ſtrong, for climbing; and their toes, placed two before and two behind, enables them to run up and down the trees, and to hold faſt the branches. The feathers of their tails are ſtiff, ſharp-pointed, and bend downwards, and they bear with the ends of them againſt the ſide of the tree, and ſo ſupport themſelves, either when they are climbing up, or deſcending with their heads downwards.

When

ORDER 2

Genus 19 Picus.

WOOD PECKER.

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When a Woodpecker has found an old decayed tree, in which there are worms, or ants eggs, or inſects, he fixes his ſtrong claws in the bark, and leaning on the ſtiff feathers of the tail, he begins to bore with his bill; and, when he has opened a way into their dwelling, he feaſts upon the poor inſects, darting his tongue through them, and drawing them into his beak.

Sometimes, when he finds an ant-hill on the ground, he pecks with his bill and diſturbs the ants, he then thruſts out his long red tongue, and lays it on the ground: the ants perhaps think it to be a worm, (for it is very much like one) and as they are very fond of worms, they ſettle upon it in great numbers; the Woodpecker then draws in his tongue, and eats them all.

The Woodpecker's bill is very ſtrong, and of a proper form for boring wood. He makes his neſt in a hollow tree, and bores a round hole in the ſide, at which he gets in: but he is very nice in his choice, and as he can eaſily make theſe holes, he ſometimes leaves a great many before he fixes upon one. Thoſe that he has left, other birds that cannot bore ſo well, make their neſts in, ſuch as the Jay and the Starling. Woodpeckers do much miſchief in woods, by boring the trees, which afterwards decay, and ſometimes by ſtripping the bark.

The

The flight of the Woodpecker is very irregular; never in a ſtrait line, but always up and down. Woodpeckers lay about five eggs, greeniſh, with black ſpots.

There is at Saint Domingo, or Hiſpaniola, (an iſland in the Weſt-Indies) a bird of the Woodpecker kind, called the Carpenter. He ſpoils many of the palm-trees, for he bores them in many places, and weakens them ſo much, that they are often blown down by the wind. This bird is not much larger than a Lark; his bill is about an inch in length, and ſo ſtrong, that in a day he can bore a palm-tree to the centre. The palm-tree is ſo hard, that it turns the edges of the beſt iron tools.

There is one American Woodpecker which has a bill as white as ivory. Another kind which is found in Brazil, is as large as a Pigeon; he has a ſcarlet head, and a creſt of ſcarlet feathers, which reach to his back.

There is one kind of Woodpecker that differs from all the reſt; it has but three toes, two before and one behind. It is found in Sweden, and Siberia, which is in Aſia, and at Hudſon's Bay in America, and is not much larger than a Linnet.

GENUS 20. SITTA.

THE NUTHATCH.

The beak is awl-ſhaped, ſmooth, ſtrait, the upper mandible rather longer and black, and compreſſed at the point; the lower mandible white.

The tongue ſhort, horny at the end, and jagged.

The noſtrils covered with briſtles.

The feathers of the tail are ſtiff.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, that is, three toes before and one behind.

THE Nuthatch runs up and down the bodies of trees, and feeds upon inſects and nut-kernels.

He is a very wiſe and careful bird, for he ſaves nuts for the winter; and when he has occaſion for them, he brings one at a time from his hoard, and places it in the chink of a tree, and ſtands above it with his head downwards; then he ſtrikes the nut with his bill, with all his ſtrength, and breaks it, and catches up the kernel before it can fall to the ground.

The Nuthatch makes her neſt in hollow trees, and if the hole be too large, ſhe ſtops up part of it with clay. She is very fond of her young ones, and will ſuffer her feathers to be pulled off, rather than

than forſake them. She never leaves them to feed herſelf, but the male bird brings beetles, and ants, and catterpillars, for her to eat while ſhe is ſitting.

GENUS 21. TODUS.

THE TODY.

The beak is awl-ſhaped, a little flattened, blunt, ſtrait, and with ſpreading briſtles at the baſe. The noſtrils are ſmall and oval.

Tongue.

Feet like the King Fiſher's, the middle toe joined to the outer toe to the third joint.

THE male bird is of a light blue on the upper part of the body, and white under the ſtomach; the throat and ſides of a roſe-colour.

The females make their neſts in dry earth ſometimes, moſtly in ſand, and always in the ground; they dig it with their feet and beak; and firſt they make a round hole, in which they put ſtraw, dry moſs, cotton, and feathers; the female lays four or five eggs.

They catch flies and other inſects with great addreſs and ſkill.

GENUS

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ORDER 2.

Genus 22 Alcedo.

KING FISHER.

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GENUS 22. ALCEDO.

THE KING-FISHER's

Bill is long, ſtrait, ſtrong, and trigonal, (that is to ſay, three-ſided.) Noſtrils ſmall.

The tongue fleſhy, ſhort, ſmooth, and ſharp-pointed.

In the feet of moſt the three joints of the outer toe grow to the middle toe.

THERE are many kinds of King-Fiſhers, and they live in ſeveral parts of Europe, and in Bengal, on the banks of the river Ganges, and in Perſia: Bengal and Perſia are both in Aſia.

There are ſome kinds of King-Fiſhers in Egypt, which is in Africa; and ſome at Surinam, and other parts of America. The King-Fiſher is about the ſize of a Swallow; his bill is remarkably long, and his legs very ſmall. The colours of the Engliſh King-Fiſher are beautiful; the back, from the neck to the tail, is of an elegant bright and ſhining blue; the crown of the head is green and blue; the tail is ſhort, and of a rich deep blue.

He balances himſelf upon his wings above the water at a certain diſtance; and as ſoon as he ſees a little fiſh ſwimming near the top, he darts inſtantly upon it, and brings it up in his feet.

The

The King-Fiſhers make their neſts on the banks of rivers, and on the cliffs near the ſea; they make holes more than three feet deep; ſometimes they find holes ready made by water rats, which the water rats have left; then they make their neſts there, and line them with the down of the willow.

Though the King-Fiſher be a very pretty bird, his neſt is dirty; for as he feeds upon fiſh, we find in it a great quantity of bones, and of ſcales, which makes it ſmell very diſagreeably.

Whilſt the hen King-Fiſher ſits upon her eggs, the cock is very buſy, and brings her fiſh to eat.

Formerly ſome people were ſo ſilly as to believe, that theſe birds built their neſts upon the ſea, in the middle of winter; that it floated upon the ſurface; and that all the time they were ſitting upon their eggs to hatch them, the weather was perfectly fine—and ſo they called thoſe days, when nothing made them unhappy, Alcyon days; for Alcyon was the name which they gave to the King-Fiſher.

The King-Fiſher has a very large ſtomach, like other birds of prey; and like them, he throws up in little round pellets, thoſe parts of his food which he cannot digeſt, as the ſcales of the fiſh, &c.

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ORDER 2

Genus 23 Merops.

BEE EATER.

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It is very ſtrange that a bird, whoſe wings are ſo ſmall in proportion, ſhould fly ſo ſwiftly; if a fiſh chance to fall out of his beak, from the branch upon which he is perched, he will ſometimes catch it before it reaches the water.

He darts down ſo rapidly, that his fall has been compared to the fall of lead.

In warmer climates there are many ſpecies of the King-Fiſher; here we have but one; yet he can bear the cold very well; for in the winter, he is ſeen ſometimes to plunge under the ice after his prey. Yet ſometimes they periſh in the winter.

GENUS 23. MEROPS.

The BEE EATER.

The beak is bowed, or bending; compreſſed and keel-ſhaped.

The tongue ſlender, and lacerated (or fringed) at the point, ending in two long threads.

In the feet the three joints of the outer toe grow to the middle toe, as in the King-Fiſhers.

THE Bee Eater eats waſps, and graſshoppers, gnats, and flies, and bees, and other inſects, which he catches like the Swallow, as he flies. The children in the iſland of Candia (which is in

in the Mediterranean Sea) catch him with a hook and line, in the air, almoſt in the ſame way as fiſh are taken out of the water. They put a crooked pin through a graſshopper whilſt he is alive; the graſshopper ſtill flutters about, and the Bee Eater perceiving him, darts down upon him and is taken. This is a very cruel diverſion, and certainly would not afford the children any amuſement, if they did but conſider the ſufferings of the graſshopper.

The Bee Eaters are ſeen moſtly in warm countries; in England they are ſeldom found. In colours they very much reſemble a King-Fiſher, as well as in their feet. Their flight is like the Swallow's, and like the Swallow their tail is forked; two of their tail feathers are longer than the reſt.

They make their neſts in caverns, and line them with moſs. They are gregarious (that is to ſay, they flock together.)

Some have ſaid, that they fly with the breaſt upwards; but this may be a miſtake. Others too have ſaid, that the young Bee Eaters, as ſoon as they can fly, attend upon their parents, and procure them food, and ſerve them with the greateſt affection. This is perhaps another miſtake; but if it be true, they ſet little boys and little girls a very good example.

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ORDER 2

Genus 21 Upupa.

HOPPOE.

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The fore part of the head is a beautiful ſea-green; the upper part reddiſh, tinged with green; the back part of the head and back a browniſh red; the breaſt and tail a greeniſh blue; the throat a bright golden yellow.

GENUS 24. UPUPA.

THE HOPPOE.

The beak is bowed, or bending, a little compreſſed; ſlender, with a furrow running along each ſide.

A very ſhort triangular tongue, blunt and ſtrait in moſt.

Feet formed for hopping or walking, three toes before and one behind.

Ten feathers in its tail, and a creſt on its head, which it can fold back.

THE Hoppoe can raiſe or let fall his creſt when he chuſes; it begins at the baſe of his beak, and goes to the back part of his head. The feathers in the creſt are in a double row, and they are black and yellow.

In the middle of the tail is a white ſpot, like a new moon. The wings and tail are black, with bars of white. It lives on inſects, ſuch as ants, and beetles, and catterpillars. It is found in many

many parts of Europe, and ſometimes in England: when it is frightened it raiſes its creſt.

The back is ſpotted with black and white; the legs are ſhort; the outer toe is fixed to the middle toe in part.

The natural ſituation of the creſt is to fall down backwards.

A Hoppoe that had been caught ſome time, was very fond of the woman who took care of it; he ſeemed never happy but when he was with her only. If any ſtrangers came he was afraid, and raiſed his creſt. Though the windows of the houſe were often left open, he did not wiſh to make his eſcape. One day, however, being affrighted by ſomething new, he flew away; he did not go far, but not being able to find his way back, he went into the window of a convent which was left open, and there he died, becauſe they did not know what was his proper food. Hoppoes may be fed with raw meat, and eggs, and worms.

Its common food is thoſe inſects which are found on the ground or fly very low, as beetles, ants, worms, dragon-flies, wild bees, and caterpillars. He is generally found in marſhy places, where there are many inſects. When the waters of the Nile, after overflowing, are returning within

their

their banks, they leave great quantities of mud behind. When the ſun warms this mud it ſwarms with inſects; the Hoppoes then are found on its banks. They feed upon the inſects, and follow the waters as they retire.

At Grand Cairo (which is the capital of Egypt) there are many Hoppoes. They build their neſts on the tops or terraces of the houſes.

In Egypt they live together in little companies. In moſt other countries they go only in pairs. In Europe they are only birds of paſſage, and do not ſtay all winter.

Like Woodpeckers, they lay their eggs in the holes of trees. Their neſts are extremely dirty, for the little birds being ſunk down ſo low in the tree, they cannot throw out the dirt.

A Hoppoe that was given to a lady ſeemed very fond of hearing muſic, and whenever ſhe played, would place itſelf on or near her harpſicord.

The Egyptians ſay, that the young Hoppoes are very fond of their parents; that they warm them when they are old under their wings, and when they are moulting, help them to pull off their feathers.

In this perhaps the Egyptians may be miſtaken; but if it be true, they ſet us a good example, for we ought to be grateful to our parents who have been ſo careful of us.

GENUS 25. CERTHIA.

THE CREEPER's

Bill is bowed, weak, and ſlender, a little triangular, (or three-ſided) and pointed.

The tongue pointed, and griſtly at the end.

The feet formed for walking or hopping, or three toes before and one behind.

THE head, back, and wings are of a duſky red, or browniſh colour; the throat and breaſt white; and the back and wings brown; the legs are ſhort.

The tail is long for the ſize of the bird, and very proper to aſſiſt him in climbing.

The tongue is not longer than the bill, but it is armed with a bony point.

The toes and claws are very long. He creeps up and down trees in ſearch of inſects to feed upon. Creepers breed in hollow trees, and ſome ſay, lay twenty eggs; but M. Buffon tells us, that they never lay more than ſeven. They have three toes before and one behind, and they can run not only up and down and round the tree, but under the branches, with their backs downwards.

Their

Their beaks are not ſtrong enough to ſtrike the bark to frighten the inſects, ſo they prey upon thoſe which they find upon moſs and bark, and ſometimes follow Woodpeckers, to catch ſome of thoſe inſects which they have diſturbed.

As Creepers live only on inſects, they are found in greateſt numbers in warm countries, where inſects moſt abound.

They ſeem ſometimes rather larger than they really are, becauſe their feathers do not always lie ſmooth, but often ſtand upright.

There is one kind of Creeper that frequents church-yards, and lays its eggs (when it has the opportunity) in human ſkulls.

There are Creepers in all warm climates, both in Europe and America; their plumage is very beautiful.

One kind, called the Angala, makes its neſt of the down of plants. It is frequently hunted by a ſpider nearly as large as itſelf, and very fierce, who often ſeizes the young and ſucks their blood.

GENUS 26. TROCHILLUS.

THE HUMMING BIRD.

The beak is in the ſhape of an awl, but as fine almoſt as a thread; it is a little bent, tubulated, or trumpet-ſhaped at the end, longer than the head, and the upper mandible ſheaths the lower.

The tongue is thread-ſhaped, tubulous, with two united threads, but divided at the point.

The feet formed for hopping or walking.

There are ten feathers in the tail.

THE Humming Bird is the ſmalleſt of all birds. There are ſeveral kinds, from nearly the ſize of a Wren to the ſize of a Humble Bee.

They only live in warm countries, in the Eaſt-Indies and in America (where flowers are conſtantly growing;) their colours are more beautiful than can well be imagined, and very brilliant or ſhining; many ſeem ſpangled with gold and precious ſtones, and ſome have little creſts on their heads.

As ſoon as the ſun riſes the Humming Birds of different kinds flutter about the flowers, without fixing upon them; their wings move very quickly, and are conſtantly in motion.

They

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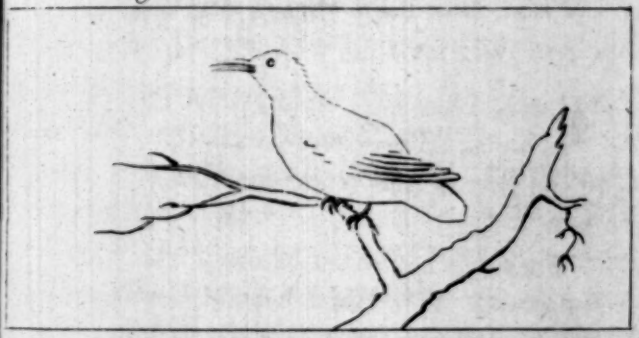
Genus 26 Trochillus.



HUMMING BIRD.

Published Oct.r 2.d 1786 by Jos. Johnson St Pauls Church Yard London.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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They fly like butterflies from flower to flower, and with their little tongues (which are like a tube or pipe, and forked at the end) they ſuck the honey, and that is what they live upon.

Their neſts are very curious. They generally hang from the end of a branch of an orange or of a citron-tree. The hen bird is buſy in building it, whilſt the cock goes to fetch cotton, and moſs, and the fineſt graſs. It is about as large as half an apricot, and warmly lined with cotton; the outſide is the bark of gum-trees glued together. They lay two little eggs about the ſize of peas, and the cock and hen ſit by turns; but the hen only leaves the eggs a little while in the morning, to get ſome honey when the dew is on the flowers. The little ones are hatched in twelve days, and at firſt are no larger than a great blue fly.

There was a gentleman in America who found a neſt of little Humming Birds (or Colibris) in a ſhed, near his houſe: he put them into a cage, and placed it in his chamber window. The old birds came to feed them every hour in the day; and they ſoon became ſo tame, as to live from choice almoſt conſtantly in the room with their young ones.

They frequently came and ſettled upon his hand, and he fed them with wine and biſcuit and

ſugar. They flew into and out of the chamber when they wiſhed, but they were always attentive to the gentleman's voice, and came whenever he called them.

One night, unfortunately, he forgot to hang up their cage, and the rats came and devoured them. It was a great pity that the gentleman ſhould be ſo careleſs. It is very thoughtleſs to catch birds, and to impriſon them in a little cage, and to prevent them from flying about as they like in the open air, and from hopping about from bough to bough, and from ſinging to one another, and from enjoying themſelves: but to put them firſt into ſo ſmall a priſon as a little cage, where they have no room to fly, and can only get what we give them, and cannot eſcape from cats or rats, that would hurt them, and then to neglect them, is very cruel indeed.

The Indians frequently dry Humming Birds, and wear them as ornaments. The Peruvians make curious pictures of their feathers.

The Humming Birds have great courage; they will frequently attack birds twenty times as large as themſelves, and letting themſelves be carried along by them as they fly, ſtill continue to peck them.

There

There are two kinds of birds that are called Humming Birds; but they differ in this, the beak of the real Humming Bird is ſtrait, that of the Colibri, or the ſecond kind, a little crooked, and its body more taper.

All the birds we have been reading of, ſince the Butcher Bird, that is to ſay, the Parrots, the Toucan, the Indian Raven, the Beefeater, the Ani, the Corvi, ſuch as the Raven, Crow, Rook, Royſton Crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Nutcracker, and Corniſh Cough. The Roller, the Oriolus, the Grakle, the Birds of Paradiſe, the Curucui, the Cuckow, the Wryneck, the Woodpecker, the Nuthatch, the Tody, the King Fiſher, the Bee Eater, the Hoppoe, the Creeper, and the Humming Bird. Theſe are all of the Pie kind, becauſe their beaks are compreſſed and convex on the back, like a wedge, and as if intended for cleaving.

Their legs ſhort, and rather ſtrong.

Their fleſh tough, and not good for food.

They feed on berries, inſects, and carrion, and a variety of things.

They make their neſts chiefly in trees, the male bird feeding the female whilſt ſhe ſits.

They pair.

That

That great Being, who created all things, has given every animal the means of procuring food, and of taking care of itſelf. The more we know of his works, the more we may admire his wiſdom and goodneſs.

The Parrots climb from bough to bough, for they are too heavy to hop; therefore, that good Being has given them very ſtrong toes; and one toe is moveable, ſo that they can turn it before or behind as they pleaſe, and can graſp the boughs very faſt, or hold their food in one foot, whilſt they ſtand on the other. Their beaks too are hooked, which is of great uſe when they climb.

The Toucan and the Indian Raven have both very large beaks, but that they may not be a burden, they are in both very light. Toucans live in thoſe countries where there are a great many Monkies; now Monkies are very fond of catching and eating their young: ſo that wiſe Being has given them very large beaks to frighten the Monkies away as they ſit upon their neſts.

We find too, that moſt animals, whilſt they are providing for themſelves, are at the ſame time of uſe to ſome other part of the creation.

The Beefeater and Ani feed upon the inſects that breed under the ſkin of cows, and other cattle.

tle.—These insects would be very painful to them, when they increased to great numbers.

Ravens and Crows live upon carrion, that is to say, upon dead carcasses, which men do not eat. These carcasses would soon smell disagreeably, and in hot countries infect the air, and perhaps make the inhabitants die, if they were not devoured by the Ravens and Crows.

We ought to thank that good Being too, for having taught the Rooks to feed upon the worms and larvæ, which live under the surface of the earth; otherwise, they might increase so fast as to eat up all the corn, and then there would be nothing left to make bread for us.

The covering of the Magpie's nest, shews the kind care of that good Being from whom it learnt thus to preserve its young from birds of prey.

How wonderfully are the tails of the Nutcracker, the Woodpecker, and of other birds contrived, to assist them in climbing trees: because they are obliged to run up them in search of insects.

He has taught the Orioles to hang their nests at the ends of the slightest boughs, to secure them from Monkies and Serpents.

The Cuckow in Africa cannot procure honey himself, therefore that good Being has directed him to seek the assistance of man.

The Woodpecker, who is obliged to pierce the trees, has a very ſtrong beak, and a curious tongue which he can dart out to a great diſtance, it is armed with a bony point, and covered with a kind of glue, to ſecure its prey.

The Nuthatch, with many birds of the Raven kind, provides a winter ſtore.

The Bee Eater, Hoppoe, and Creepers, prevent inſects from increaſing too faſt.

The curious tongue of the Humming Bird, is well contrived to draw the honey from flowers.

We ſhall therefore find, that if birds had the ſame ſenſe that we have, they would all have great reaſon to thank that Being, who has taught them to get food and to take care of themſelves. For there is not a quadruped, or a bird, or an inſect, which he does not provide for.

Little boys and girls, whom he has made capable of thinking, ſhould never forget theſe things; but whenever they eat, or drink, and are happy, let them always conſider, how much they are obliged to that kind Being for all they enjoy.

END OF THE FIRST PART.